

The Estrella Warbirds Museum

The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future



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It's that time of year again, a time that most of us spend running around buying presents, hanging lights, decorating trees, going to parties, and complaining about how rushed we feel and how the spirit has gone out of Christmas. The Museum's Christmas dinner is a good time to stop and recall the men and women of our Armed Services who are serving far from home and in harm's way, in foxholes, on shipboard watch, in cockpits and in hangers, thinking about distant families and friends and working astonishingly long hours to keep us free and safe. Inside, on page 5, you can read about a way to help make the life of these brave warriors just a little less trying, a little less stressful. Prayer is important, but so is some hard candy, an old CD, or a note of encouragement. Try it, you'll feel better about yourself knowing that you've made a difference in the life of a soldier, sailor, or airman.

Features

Thoughts from the Flight Line: Musings by the President	2
The Menu: Larry Eastwood's Christmas Menu	2
Dinner Speaker: Gary Ryan—Mr. Banjo	3
A Few Words About December's Dinner	3
Movie of the Month: The Great Santini	4
Movie Buff's Quiz	4
Answer to Movie Buff's Quiz	5
Supplies for Soldiers	5
Medal of Honor Citation for Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta	6
Museum Gift Shop for Christmas Gifts	7

Words to Live By from the Old Curmudgeon

This is as true in everyday life as it is in battle: we are given one life and the decision is ours whether to wait for circumstances to make up our mind, or whether to act, and in acting, to live.

General of the Army Omar N. Bradley





**“Thoughts From the Flight Line”
Musings by our President, Rob Kinnear**

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving this year. The turkey dinner we had at the November dinner meeting was great. Unfortunately for that meal there were no leftovers to snack on later. In addition, Jerry Dietz gave a very interesting account of his experiences as part of the 86th Infantry “Blackhawk” Division.

November 11th of course was Veterans Day. This is a time to remember all of the men and women who served our country in the armed forces. We displayed our F-4 cockpit/nose section at the San Luis Obispo Farmers Market that night. Again it drew quite a crowd. I hope you had a chance to read the article in that days Telegram newspaper about our very own George Marrett. George has lead and still is leading an interesting life.

The Woodland Building addition is complete and new cars have been moved in. Speaking of cars, we just added one to our collection that won't fit in the building. We recently added a DUKW (pronounced “duck”) amphibious truck. It runs, but currently will not float. These were 2-ton truck frames that basically had a boat attached to them. They served all over the world during World War II, and were highly prized utility vehicles after the war in civilian life. Our duck sat outside in LA as an advertisement billboard for a number of years and there is a lot of rust to deal with. Work is continuing on the TA-4J aircraft and other projects. We can always use an extra hand in the restoration department.

We are expecting to start the interview process for our 2 new hired positions of Museum Coordinator and Facilities Coordinator. There is still time to get a resume in.

Peter Visel put together a new calendar for the Museum. It has been awhile since we have published one, and we expect to keep this going every year.

You may want to sign-up early for our December dinner. It will be prime rib with all the fixing for \$20.00. Gary Ryan will be singing and playing his banjo for us. It will be a great show. If you can't get to a computer, call Rosemary at 467-3521.

The whole Museum staff wishes you the merriest of holiday seasons and the happiest of New Years

Rob Kinnear
EWM President

**Dinner Menu
Wednesday, December 1, 2010**



**Prime Rib
Baked Potato
Seasonal Vegetables
Green Salad
Rolls
Larry's Christmas
Dessert**



**No Host Bar
\$20.00 Per Person**

RESERVATIONS

**Call Rosemary at 467-3521
Or visit our website at
www.ewarbirds.org
By **NOON** Tuesday, November 31**



**Thank You
Social Hour 6pm-7pm
Dinner & Program Follows**

**2010-2011 Museum
Board of Directors
*Executive Committee***

President & CEO

Rob Kinnear

Vice President

Wayne Rice

Secretary

Margi Bauer

Treasurer

Rosemary Netto

Board Members

Ron Boyte

Ron Brooks

Gary Corippo

Dave Highland

Mike Kelley

Peter Visel

Museum Information

Phone 805-227-0440 (Voice Mail Only)

Fri/Sat/Sun Phone

238-9317



December 1, 2010 Program—A Special Treat For Christmas!

Gary Ryan—Master of the Banjo!
By George Marrett, Program Chairman

Gary Ryan, banjoist extraordinaire, gifted pianist, pilot and builder of aircraft, airshow announcer, licensed cruise boat captain, artist, former candidate for the Presidency, and successful entrepreneur returns to the Warbird Museum again this Christmas with songs and stories to warm our spirits and bring a smile to our faces.

Gary has been playing a banjo since a young boy and made his show business debut while in the eighth grade. Of that experience, Gary says, "Showtime arrived and I sat down and played 'The World is Waiting for the Sunrise,' a then popular song by Les Paul and Mary Ford. The crowd loved it and clapped and cheered. They wanted an encore. Encore? I'd

just played the only song I knew . . . But the lesson was learned. If you want to dazzle your audience, you'd better know more than one tune!" Gary has since learned more than one tune. His musical journey has taken him from pizza parlors in Berkeley to basements in Denver and, eventually, to Las Vegas and beyond. Gary eventually wound up in Morro Bay where for 14 years he was captain of the riverboat bay cruiser and its chief musician, a "gig" that was supposed to last "just for the summer."

Gary has played with the Great American Jazz Band at festivals across the nation and is a "roving ambassador" for the Mammoth Jazz Festival along with Philip Smith of the Stevie Wonder Band. Together, Gary and Philip still play at events up and down the west coast. He is a recording artist and has been called "a jack of all trades and master of *all*."

Charlie Brown once said, "Everybody should have a banjo." Gary will show you why!

A few Words About December's Dinner

As President Rob Kinnear mentioned, we are charging \$20.00 for our Christmas Dinner this year. The increase is because Larry is serving Prime Rib and it is simply more expensive. We think that it would be hard to find a Prime Rib dinner with all of the fixings, plus entertainment, at a cost anything near \$20.00 and we wanted this dinner to be "special," in honor of the Holiday.

We also want to urge you to make your reservations early. George Marrett's program for December brings back Gary Ryan, who entertained us so well last year for Christmas, and that combined with Larry's Prime Rib means that seats are going to be at a premium, so call Rosemary or visit the website as soon as you read this and get your reservation in, we'd hate to see you turned away.

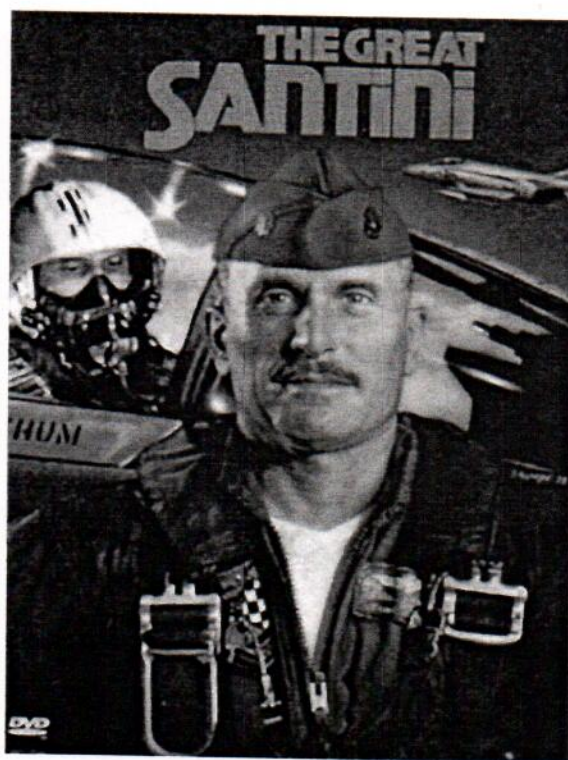
Movie Nite !

Wednesday, Dec 14th

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time

THE GREAT SANTINI



STARRING: Robert Duvall, Blythe Danner

Excellent acting & script about a military family - two Oscar nominations. The four Meechum kids & their mother move from Marine post to Marine post, following their father, a pilot, in the peaceful years before the Vietnam war. In Beaufort, South Carolina, Bull is assigned to whip into shape a squadron of pilots. Robert Duvall as Bull Meechum in a great character role & Blythe Danner is impressive as a tough military wife.

★ ★ ★ ★ **Ebert (1979 - 116 min.) (Adult scenes)**

MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ

According to the author of "The Great Santini," Pat Conroy, the film's lead character Lt. Col. Bull Meecham is based entirely on his own father, Donald Conroy, a Marine fighter pilot who referred to himself in the third person as "The Great Santini," a nickname Conroy took for himself from a magician he'd seen as a child. Both Pat Conroy and his father were on the set on the day that Robert Duvall and Michael O'Keefe filmed the famous scene where Bull Meecham bullies and taunts Ben after losing to him in a basketball game. Another guest on the set approached Pat Conroy and asked if he and his father had really played games like that.

The question for you is, what did Pat Conroy say when asked about that scene? For "Extra Points" and to make you the envy of the movie fan scene tell us what other film used the house where the Meechem's lived for much of this film. See the next page (page 5) for the answers. Don't peek!



MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ THE ANSWERS



Although the question had been directed to Pat Conroy it was his father, Donald, who replied, "Every day, madam. Every single day." However, the book and movie gave Donald Conroy an opportunity to mend fences with his children, especially Pat. After the novel was published, Donald Conroy would often accompany his son to book signings, and would sign his son's novels with the signature, "Donald Conroy - The Great Santini."

The "Extra Credit" answer is that the Beaufort, South Carolina home used in the film is the same house seen in the 1983 cult classic "*The Big Chill*". It is known as the "Edgar Fripp Home" as well as "Tidalholm."

Robert Duvall was nominated for a Best Acting Oscar for his performance as "Bull" Meechum, and Michael O'Keefe for the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in the role of Meechum's son.

Supplies for Soldiers Supporting The Men & Women of San Luis Obispo County Who Go In Harm's Way

At the October dinner meeting we began collecting much needed personal items for shipment to the 80-150 residents of San Luis Obispo County who are currently serving their country in combat. Your response has been heartening and has reflected well on the Warbird Museum and its members. The need of these brave fellow citizens, however, has not diminished and so we will continue to have the barrel at our Monthly Dinner meetings to receive your contributions. We have listed below the things that are most asked for or most welcome. As small as it might seem, don't forget that the "Notes of Encouragement" mean so much to those who are far from home and sometime think they have been forgotten. A note needn't be eloquent or long, just a short word of thanks for the sacrifices being made and an assurance that these brave men and women remain in our thoughts and prayers will suffice. And, of course, a note accompanied by any of the items listed below is especially welcome.

Items that are most requested are

Snacks (no chocolate)
Dried Fruit
Flavored Coffee Creamer (small)
Hard Candy
Red Vines Licorice

Sunflower Seeds
Sweetened Powdered drink Mixes
Beef Jerky
ANY small individual snack packages
Gum

Comfort Items

DVD's (old & new)
CD's (old & new)
Disposable Cameras
Handheld Electronic Games
Misty Mates, Bandana Coolers/Cool-Ties
Batteries (AA, AAA, C)

Glad Ware Plastic Containers
Glade Stick-Up Room Deodorizers
Notes of Encouragement
Small Battery Operated Fan
Small Squirt Bottles
Swifter Dusters

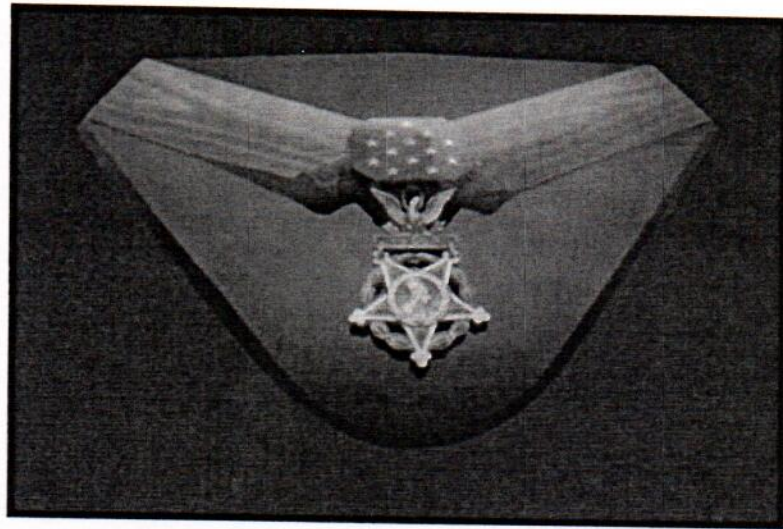
The items collected at the Monthly Dinner meetings will be sent by Supplies for Soldiers directly to the men and women from San Luis Obispo County who are on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information on the committee's work or what you can do to help contact Gary Nemeth at garysam@charter.net.

George Taylor
Gary Corippo

Betty Miller
Chuck Miller

Gary Nemeth



Medal of Honor Citation for Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta

Specialist Salvatore A. Giunta distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, on October 25, 2007.

While conducting a patrol as team leader with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, Specialist Giunta and his team were navigating through harsh terrain when they were ambushed by a well-armed and well-coordinated insurgent force. While under heavy enemy fire, Specialist Giunta immediately sprinted towards cover and engaged the enemy. Seeing that his squad leader had fallen and believing that he had been injured, Specialist Giunta exposed himself to withering enemy fire and raced towards his squad leader, helped him to cover, and administered medical aid. While administering first aid, enemy fire struck Specialist Giunta's body armor and his secondary weapon.

Without regard to the ongoing fire, Specialist Giunta engaged the enemy before prepping and throwing grenades, using the explosions for cover in order to conceal his position. Attempting to reach additional wounded fellow soldiers who were separated from the squad, Specialist Giunta and his team encountered a barrage of enemy fire that forced them to the ground. The team continued forward and upon reaching the wounded soldiers, Specialist Giunta realized that another soldier was still separated from the element.

Specialist Giunta then advanced forward on his own initiative. As he crested the top of a hill, he observed two insurgents carrying away an American soldier. He immediately engaged the enemy, killing one and wounding the other. Upon reaching the wounded soldier, he began to provide medical aid, as his squad caught up and provided security.

Specialist Giunta's unwavering courage, selflessness, and decisive leadership while under extreme enemy fire were integral to his platoon's ability to defeat an enemy ambush and recover a fellow American soldier from the enemy. Specialist Salvatore A. Giunta's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, and the United States Army.

Editor's Note: Sgt. Giunta is 25 years old. He is the first living service member to earn the nation's highest military award for valor in action in Iraq or Afghanistan.

LOOKING FOR A
Holiday Present
FOR THE AVIATOR
OR FUTURE AVIATOR IN YOUR FAMILY?

*Visit the Estrella Warbird Museum Gift Shop for a
Great Selection of Aviation Related Items...*

- Aviation-oriented Shirts for All Ages
- Books on aviation related topics
- Aviation mugs, hats, and toys

Gift Certificates for a Session in Our F-18 Simulator
at a Bargain Price of \$20.00 including Admission!

We're open Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm, and
Sunday from 12Noon to 4pm. Call (805) 227-0440 for details.



Estrella
WarBirds
Museum
and
Automobile
Display

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

At the Airport in Paso Robles
4251 Dry Creek Road



HONORING THE PAST- INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Estrella Warbird Museum
4251-A Dry Creek Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446



11/27/10

Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit 163
Paso Robles, CA



Supplies for Soldiers

Remember to bring something for the County's fighting men and women when you come to the December Dinner meeting.

3*1*****3-DIGIT 934
JACKIE & RON BROOKS
11955 SAN MARCOS RD
ATASCADERO CA 93422-1762

America's Heroes—The Men and Women of the Armed Forces



8